



**File Code:** 1950  
**Date:** June 25, 2020

Dear Interested Party:

This letter is to notify you that I issued a draft decision notice (DN) for the Kaibab Plateau Ecological Restoration Project. I appreciate the input we received during the planning and analysis of the project, and the comments we received were useful in developing the project and in drafting my decision.

I intend to select the proposed action as described in the Kaibab Plateau Ecological Restoration Project Environmental Assessment (EA) and further clarified in the draft DN. The project includes prescribed fire and mechanical treatments without removal of commercial wood products to work towards desired conditions identified in the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Kaibab National Forest ("forest plan" 2014, as amended). The project will reduce the threat of uncharacteristic high-severity wildfire and restore resiliency so vegetation communities are better able to resist and adapt to current and future disturbance events.

The legal notice announcing the draft decision is expected to be published in the newspaper of record, the *Arizona Daily Sun*, Flagstaff, Arizona, on or around June 25, 2020. Anyone wishing to file an objection should confirm this date by checking the newspaper of record.

### **For More Information**

For more details, refer to the EA and draft DN, available online at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54226>. For additional information, please contact David Vincelette (North Kaibab Ranger District NEPA Planner) by phone at 928-643-8143, email at david.vincelette@usda.gov or by mail at US Forest Service, 430 South Main Street, PO Box 248, Fredonia, AZ 86022.

### **How to file an Objection**

The Kaibab Plateau Ecological Restoration Project implements the forest plan and is not authorized under the Healthy Forest Restoration Act; therefore, the decision is subject to the administrative review process referred to as the "objection" process pursuant to 36 CFR 218, subparts A and B. A written objection must be submitted to the reviewing officer within 45 calendar days following publication of the legal notice of the "Opportunity to Object" in the *Arizona Daily Sun* which is the newspaper of record. It is the responsibility of objectors to ensure their objections are received in a timely manner (36 CFR 218.9(a)). The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Objectors should not rely upon time requirements provided by any other source.

Objections will only be accepted from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the project during the scoping and opportunity for comment periods in accordance with §218.5(a). Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted



timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project unless based on new information arising after the designated comment opportunities.

Objections, including attachments, must be filed via:

- mail to: Heather Provencio, Forest Supervisor, Kaibab National Forest Supervisor's Office, 800 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Williams, AZ 86046;
- hand delivery to the project objection drop box located at the Kaibab National Forest Supervisor's Office at the address listed above;
- FAX to (928) 635-8208; or
- email to [objections-southwestern-kaibab@usda.gov](mailto:objections-southwestern-kaibab@usda.gov); or

Objections may be submitted in print or electronically in MS Word, PDF, or Rich Text format.

The objection must meet the content requirements of 36 CFR 218.8(d), and include the following information: 1) the objector's name and address, with a telephone number or email address, if available; 2) a signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for email may be filed with the objection); 3) when multiple names are listed on an objection, identification of the lead objector as defined in 36 CFR 218.2 (verification of the identity of the lead objector shall be provided upon request); 4) the name of the project being objected to, the name and title of the responsible official, and the name of the national forest and ranger districts on which the project will be implemented; 5) a description of those aspects of the project addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the project and, if applicable, how the objector believes the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies that would resolve the objection; and supporting reasons for the reviewing officer to consider; and 6) a statement that demonstrates the connection between prior specific written comments on the particular project or activity and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the designated opportunity for formal comment. With certain exceptions (36 CFR 218.8(b)), all documents referenced in the objection must be included with the objection.

All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process. Responses that do not adhere to these requirements make review of an objection difficult and are conditions under which the reviewing officer may set aside an objection pursuant to 36 CFR 218.10.

I appreciate your interest in the Kaibab Plateau Ecological Restoration Project and your concern for the management of your public lands.

Sincerely,



RANDALL M. WALKER  
District Ranger